

NGC Consultant Schools

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. has an approved curriculum for three schools offered across the country. Each of these schools consists of a series of four ten hour courses, typically held about three months apart, scheduled for 2-3 days each. Instructors and schedules for each course are registered and approved by NGC and FFGC at least three months in advance. Courses need not be taken sequentially and non-members are welcome to attend. Upon successful completion (minimum test score of 70% on open book exams) of two courses, a *garden club member* is eligible to join FFGC's Consultant's Council and is recognized as a Consultant after all four courses are successfully completed. To maintain these credentials, a member must take a Refresher once each five years and file the appropriate paperwork with NGC.

Environmental Studies School covers ecology, environmental science, urban forestry, backyard habitats, pollution, ethics, wetlands, endangered species, plants, animals, sustainability, youth programs, earth stewardship and outreach.

Gardening Study School covers gardening, horticulture, basic botany, soils, propagation, annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables, lawns, pests/diseases, plant classification, composting and pruning.

Landscape Design Study School covers the history of Landscape Design, site design, color, accessories, maintenance, graphic interpretation, urban design, redesigns, regional expression, conservation areas and evaluations.

NGC Flower Show School

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. approves and registers Flower Show Schools for garden club members to become an internationally recognized, accredited Flower Show Judge. The school is comprised of four courses that are 2-3 days each. Courses cover material such as design types, design elements, horticulture presentation, flower show procedure, how to apply the scale of points, awards and individual and overall show judging. Each Course has an exam that must be completed with a minimum score of 70%. Courses need not be taken sequentially. However, all four courses and additional requirements must be completed within a four-year time period.

After successful completion of any three of the courses, a member is recognized as a student judge. To advance from student judge to accredited judge, a student must successfully complete the fourth course and exam, earn exhibiting credits (5 blue ribbons in horticulture and design), judge three classes of a flower show as a student judge, participate as a judge in a specified number of flower shows, prepare a schedule, and pass the Final Handbook Exam (given twice yearly, simultaneously in each state). Accredited judges then progress to Life Judge and Master Judge and retire as an Emeritus Judge. To maintain accreditation, judges must attend a symposium and file the appropriate NGC paperwork every 3 years.

NGC's Handbook for Flower Shows provides the most current information on the rules and procedures for Flower Shows and their judges.

NGC Study Units

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. offers eleven different study units at a cost of \$10 each that can be photocopied at no additional charge. These units are suitable for basic educational purposes and are appropriate for use as programs or workshops and are available from NGC at www.gardenclub.org

Design Study Units:

- 1 – Basic Flower Arranging
(6 lesson plans)
- 2 – Creative Table Settings
- 3 – Fun With Miniatures
- 4 – Household Treasures

Youth Design Study Units:

- 1 – Basic Flower Arranging
(elementary school students)
- 2 – Floral Design for Beginners
(all ages)

Landscape Design Study Units:

- 1 – Historic Preservation
- 2 – Creating a Garden
- 3 – Designing a Landscape

Horticulture Study Units:

- 1 – Basic Study
- 2 – Native Plants

These Study Units are available from NGC at www.gardenclub.org

FFGC Floral Design Study

FFGC sponsors a Floral Design Study Series of lectures/demonstrations as critiqued, hands-on workshops. Bob Thomas, an internationally renowned floral designer from Florida, was responsible for the copyrighted first six basic units and Wilma Paulauskas created the curriculum for the last three advanced units. This program focuses on basic floral design for the home and for flower shows using fresh, live plant materials and flowers. Each unit covers a different subject matter with detailed objectives.

Unit One: Containers, Basic Tools & Vertical Designs

Unit Two: Conditioning Plant Material & Triangular Designs

Unit Three: Elements & Principles of Design & Curved Designs

Unit Four: Table Settings & Horizontal Designs

Unit Five: Accessories, Features & Bases

Unit Six: Transporting Materials & Expressive Designs

Unit Seven: Dried Materials & Decorative Wood

Unit Eight: Advanced Creative Designs

Unit Nine: Creative Containers & Designer's Choice Award

The current list of upcoming unit offerings can be found in The Florida Gardener or online at www.ffgc.org

FFGC "Digging It" or "Fun with Flowers"

"**Digging It**" is a Florida horticulture series that consists of ten lessons that can be used as hands-on workshops covering topics such as Bulbs, Fruits & Vegetables, or Vines. The Instructor's Manual or Student Book (consisting of 100+ pages) is available from FFGC Headquarters (407-647-7016) at a cost of \$10.65 each.

"**Fun with Flowers**" is a hands-on, make-it-and-take-it program with individual projects combining arts & crafts with flowers. Detailed directions with color pictures are available in a printed format from FFGC Headquarters (407-647-7016) at a cost of \$19.70. Several examples can be viewed on the www.ffgc.org website under the Education Tab.

FFGC Short Courses & Symposia

FFGC sponsors three short courses and two symposia annually around the state. These two or three day events feature knowledgeable, informative speakers and instructors with demonstrations on horticulture, design, and timely topics.

The 56th **Tropical Short Course** will be held in South Florida on January 31 & February 1, 2012 at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach.

The 76th **FFGC/UF Short Course** in cooperation with Univ of Florida will be in Gainesville on June 19-21, 2012.

Short Course North was first offered in 2009 by District I in the panhandle area in August. The next Short Course North will be August 9-10, 2012 in Milton.

The **Fall 2011 Symposium** will be held at Altamonte Springs on October 23-25, 2011.

The **Spring 2012 Symposium** will be held in Gainesville on March 11-13, 2012.

Symposia meet the educational requirements for Flower Show Judges while Short Courses are typically Refreshers for those needing the NGC requirement. Information on these Short Courses can be found in The Florida Gardener magazine or online at www.ffgc.org

FFGC Wekiva Leadership Training

Prospective volunteers for Wekiva Youth Camp and other interested members, spouses and friends gather in Apopka each February for 3 days of camp familiarization and orientation. February 24-26, 2012 is the next scheduled WLT. Please see www.ffgc.org for more details.



NGC & FFGC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES 2011-2012

Specific Course Information can be found online or in the magazine at

for NGC- www.gardenclub.org
or in The National Gardener

for FFGC- www.ffgc.org
or in The Florida Gardener

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